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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3045
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 2064
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 2185
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0727
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1462
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1820
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2241
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4672
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
RHMFISS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1331
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000520

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR S. HILL
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/19/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH SADC OBSERVATION LEADER

REF: HARARE 519

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires, a.i. Glenn Warren for reason 1.4 (d)

¶1. (SBU) The Ambassador met June 17 with Tanki Mothae, director of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Affairs. Mothae is currently heading the SADC observers in Zimbabwe.

¶2. (C) Mothae said there were currently close to 200 SADC observers in Zimbabwe; SADC had committed to 350 and the rest would arrive in the next week. Observers were being deployed in teams of three and four persons and there were now at least four teams in each of Zimbabwe's 10 provinces. SADC currently had 40 vehicles and expected to have 10 more. There was sufficient fuel.

¶3. (C) Mothae said he was well aware of the violence in Zimbabwe. He was constantly receiving reports and attempting to verify incidents of violence. He told the Ambassador that the previous evening he had received a report of the burning of a house in Hatcliff, a high-density area in Harare. He drove there and observed the smoldering house; fire fighters had just extinguished the flames. He learned that an MDC Councillor had left the house to take a friend, beaten by ZANU-PF, to the hospital. While the Councillor was gone, ZANU-PF members had abducted his wife and child. (NOTE: We later learned that the child had been dropped at a police station. The wife was killed and mutilated. END NOTE.)

¶4. (C) Noting that the role of SADC was to observe an election, Mothae questioned SADC's mission since it was obvious there would be no free and fair election and that we were witnessing an incipient coup. Apart from the violence, the MDC was unable to campaign. It could not hold rallies and had no access to the media. He commented that neither party would accept the result of the election. The MDC would not accept the result of an obviously unfair election, and ZANU-PF's attitude was demonstrated by Mugabe's statement that "A vote for the MDC is a vote for war."

¶5. (C) Mothae told the Ambassador he was going to Angola for

several days and hoped to impress on the SADC Organ the necessity of dealing with the escalating violence. At the time of our meeting, he had no concrete suggestions as to what could be done.

COMMENT

¶6. (C) It is impossible to spend any time in Zimbabwe and be unaware of the spiraling violence. As with the UN (Ref), the question is whether SADC will make its findings public and dare to criticize the government. END COMMENT.

Warren